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COUNTRY: East Germany

TOPIC: Military Information from the Berlin area

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REMARKS:

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1. On 12 and 13 July 1953, numerous Soviet tanks were concentrated in the area of Strausberg near Berlin, north of Kesselsee (lake), east of Faengersee (lake) north of Garzau and west of Muencheberg. The troops stationed in these wooded areas were quartered in tents. The entire area was off limits for civilians.¹

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2. During the night on 15 July, Soviet troop units were seen proceeding to Gruenauerstrasse via Edisonstrasse, Treskow Bruecke, and Brueckenstrasse. They had come from the direction of Karlshorster Landstrasse.²

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3. Troops and materiel unloaded in Schoeneweide on 16 July included 20 trucks and loaded with furniture; 10 ZIS-3 76-mm field guns and 3 x 76-mm AT guns, at 9 a.m.; and 350 troops, 14 trucks, loaded with furniture and including B 7-87-34; and 4 AT guns at about 3:30 p.m. The trucks left toward Karlshorst.¹

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4. On the evening of 16 July, Soviet troops were assembled in the Biesdorf Stadtpark. Armored scout cars and trucks were detrained at the Biesdorf railroad station. The Stadtpark appeared occupied to capacity. In the early morning on 17 July, the Stadtpark was almost vacated. Unloadings were still under way.¹

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5. At about 2:30 p.m. on 16 July, a Soviet unit with about 35 to 40 tanks and about 35 was in the Biesdorf Stadtpark.¹

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6. During the night on 16 July, a Soviet tank and truck column, including trucks loaded with billeting equipment, passed through Biesdorf, proceeding toward Berlin.¹

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7. At about noon on 16 July, 2 tanks, 3 SP guns and truck loaded with fuel were detrained in Kaulsdorf near Berlin. At about 3 p.m., 20 tanks, and 1 SP gun were detrained.¹

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9. At noon on 16 July, a troop train of 2 flatcars carrying 4 x 57-mm guns, 40 flatcars carrying 1 truck each; 2 flatcars carrying 4 field kitchens; and 17 boxcars occupied by troops, was seen en route from the Schoeneweide operational railroad station toward Berlin.

10. during the night on 16 June, large tank units were detrained at the Biesdorf railroad station. In the morning on 18 July, 47 T-34 tanks were seen en route on Stalin Allee, proceeding toward the center of the town. Other loadings allegedly will take place in Frankfurt/Oder.

11. At noon on 17 July, troops and materiel unloaded at the Berlin-Adlershof railroad station included 15 trucks

about 20 boxcarloads, presumably of AT gun ammunition; and 10 boxcarloads of troops and women; and another shipment of billeting equipment. The detrained troops, vehicles and equipment left toward Wuhlheide.

1. Comment. Major elements of the 6th Gds Mecz Div possibly were assembled in the Strausberg area as early as 12 July as relief units for the troops employed in Berlin. Information in this report tends to indicate that, since 16 July, elements of the 6th Gds Mecz Div were moved to the Kaulsdorf-Biesdorf area. They, according to reports on transportation, had come from Bad Freienwalde on 15 and 16 July and, after a short assembly following their detraining, were apparently transferred to their destination areas. In this connection, motor vehicles of the division, in addition to MVD vehicles, were seen in the Biesdorf Stadtpark on 16 July. Elements of the 7th Gds Mecz Div probably were mostly detrained at the Schoeneweide and Adlershof railroad stations and marched to the Wuhlheide, as had also been indicated by a previous report. According to available information, major elements of the 7th Gds Mecz Div are believed stationed in the Wuhlheide area in the south of Berlin; and elements of the 6th Gds Mecz farther northward in the town area, possibly in the area of Friedrichshain, and east ward on either side of the Berlin-Kuesstrin railroad line, after about 15 July. The movements observed apparently involved a scheduled relief of units of the 1st Mecz Div and the 12th Gds Tank Div. The operation shows the Soviet desire to have available Soviet troops in Berlin and vicinity also for the future. These units, for training reasons, probably will frequently be exchanged.

2. Comment. After the arrival of the relief units of the 6th Gds Mecz Div and 7th Gds Mecz Div, the last elements of the 1st Mecz Div, which had been in Berlin until mid-July, probably left. Another report indicated that units of the division were entrained and left on 16 and 17 July.

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